

daughters and sons the deep and abiding love, guidance, attention, and encouragement that empowers them with the values and self-esteem to succeed in life. Parents love their children as they are, yet still help them to dream big dreams about who they can become.

The more we learn about our children, the more we realize the importance of good parenting. As we learned at the recent White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning the first few years of life are crucial to a child's emotional, social, and intellectual development. As their children's first and most influential teachers, parents play an immeasurably important role in helping their sons and daughters grow into happy and healthy adulthood.

The responsibilities of parenthood have become even more challenging in today's complex world. In many American families, both parents must work, struggling to balance the demands of job, home, and family. This balancing act is even harder for single parents, who must face the challenge of raising their children alone. In our mobile society, parents are often less able to rely on an extended family to help them provide the care and attention their children need. And today's mothers and fathers must protect their children from the ever-present threats of drugs, gangs, guns, violence, and unhealthy influences in the media and on the Internet.

Recognizing that good parents are the foundation of our society, my administration has strived for the past 4 years to give parents the help they need to meet their responsibilities. I signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and we are now proposing an expansion of that legislation to allow workers up to 24 hours of unpaid leave each year to meet family obligations. We are fighting to make our neighborhoods safer and drug-free and to reduce juvenile crime. We have expanded and improved Head Start to help parents prepare their young children to enter school ready to learn, and we have created an Early Head Start Program for children age 3 and under. We succeeded in requiring the installation of the V-chip and in helping to develop a voluntary ratings system on television so that parents can better pro-

tect their children from inappropriate material. And we are working with the computer industry to provide family-friendly controls that will give parents similar tools to use on the Internet.

As we observe Parents' Day this year, I urge all Americans to join me in paying tribute to the millions of mothers and fathers—biological and adoptive, foster parents and stepparents—whose boundless love and selfless efforts are building a better life for their children and for our nation. Let us repay that love and effort by striving, in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses, community and church organizations, and in government at every level, to help parents fulfill their awesome responsibilities and create a brighter future for America.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103-362, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 27, 1997, as Parents' Day. I invite the States, communities, and the people of the United States to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's parents.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:30 a.m., July 28, 1997]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 29.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 21

The President announced his intention to nominate Lt. Gen. John A. Gordon, USAF, as Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The President declared a major disaster in Washington State and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by snowmelt and flooding on April 10 and continuing through June 30.

July 22

The President announced his intention to nominate Philip Lader as Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

The President amended the major disaster declaration of June 13 for Idaho to include assistance to affected individuals in the area struck by severe storms, snowmelt, land and mud slides, and flooding on March 14 and continuing through June 30.

July 23

In the morning, the President met with President Olafur Grimsson of Iceland in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gov. William F. Weld of Massachusetts as Ambassador to Mexico.

The President announced his intention to appoint Cathryn Buford Slater as Chair and member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The President announced his nomination of Shirley Robinson Watkins and August Schumacher as members of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

July 24

In the morning, the President met with President Roman Herzog of Germany in the Oval Office.

July 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President addressed members of Boys Nation in the East Room.

The President announced his intention to appoint Joyce A. Savocchio to serve as Vice-Chair and member of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

The President declared a major disaster in Montana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, ice jams, snowmelt, flooding, and extreme soil saturation on March 1 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by excessive rainfall, high winds, and flooding on July 15–17.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and high winds associated with Hurricane Danny on July 17–22.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 21

Raymond C. Fisher,
of California, to be Associate Attorney General, vice John R. Schmidt, resigned.

Bill Lann Lee,
of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Deval L. Patrick, resigned.

Harold C. Pachios,
of Maine, to be a member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 1999 (reappointment).

Submitted July 22

Philip Lader,
of South Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.